## In the Fowler's Snareveve

CHAPTER VIII. over, and the gentlemen as well as the ful song-the mummers' carol: ladies had deserted the dining room; for outside, under the solemn Christmas stars, and drawn up in a semicircle on the snow-covered terrace, were the mummers shouting in coarse unison an old world catch:

"God rest you, mercy gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay!"

In the large hall, where the vivid holly berries blazed red on the steel armor of the knightly figures, and in festoons on the tapestried walls, a goodly company was assembled-the house party of guests, with a background of the domestic of the establishment.

And this is England, and an English Christmas eve!" A pair of small, thin hands were childishly clapped. "Oh, I never dreamed it would be so lovely, so delightful!"

A broad smile went round, for the excited speaker was the bride.

"Wonders will never cease," silently thought Gervis, as he stood amazed. Gladdy had since the afternoon thrown off the stupor of melancholy that so often oppressed her now and puzzled her husband. She had been at dinner the gayest of the party, all smiles and

"I wish Ansdell could just see her low his dismal croakings about decine women with the best of us." and wasting away. She's as merry as a cricket!"

Gladdy in his absence had lifted herself as a plant raises its head after the recovered," storm has passed.

but one person in all Temple-Dene of depression stealing over her. Gladdy wanted, and that was Leila a wild fancy. She would have none into the deserted drawing room.

They stood, these two, in the forewore white.

At the bride's throat and in her made frock, had not a single ornament save her own sweet smile and a bunch her own room, her new friend's soft of dewy, heavy-headed Christmas roses arms round her. fastened in the folds of her bodice.

close side by side. "I've read heaps about the way you happy keep Christmas in the old country, and Mistletoe Bough."

people think the tragedy actually happened here at Temple-Dene?"

added: "Gervis did not tell me, I depths?" wonder he did not."

home of his ancestors.

you know," said Leila, hesitatingly: but there is a tradition that a bride of the family was lost, and found dead the trembling girl beside her. in an old black-oak chest which stands in the gallery un yonder."

round the large hall.

"And many people firmly believe she power. Their owner could make one was the Ginevra of the poem. But of commit any crime, perhaps even murcourse it is only hearsay, we are not der! Oh, that's why I feel such an positive." "I must see it! Oh, I must! Please did something!"

take me at once!" And Gladdy caught up her satin skirts to rush off.

be terribly hurt if you ran away before the carols are finished."

thoughtful of the feelings of others. "But I always do just what I've a mind to do!" said Gladdy, half fret-

"You shall see the old oak chest tomorrow, Mrs. Templeton, I promise you that," said Lella, much as she would have sought to pacify a fractious child. And Gladdy, docile enough where she loved-and already she loved Leila-turned with smiling eyes to the half-circle of upturned rustic bells are telling and feel one scrap of faces out on the snow under the stars, doubt?" Presently Gladdy, pink and tremulous, was led out upon the steps to bow her thanks.

"Her be rare and sweet to look upon, and that happy! God bless she, we do say!"-the whisper went round

among the mummers. "But Mister Gervis, he do look grave, he do, same's he had the weight o' all England on his shoulders," somebody added. And there were one or two head-shakes, for we can't keep our heart secrets locked up from our neighbors quite as securely as we may

imagine we do. "Listen!" cried a voice from the hall. "Hark to the joybells! They've begun to peal."

From the distant villages and hamlets round came at one and the same and the Christmas bells pealed on moment a passionate peal of joy.

"The happy bells across the snow." telling once again the happy story to weary, sin-laden humanity that unto each and all a Savior was born!

For a few moments there was a lit- its feasting of the poor and its great made by Secretary H. B. Wilkins of tle hush. The gay throng stood still home dinner, was drawing to a close. the Merchants and Manufacturers' asand silent, just as did the shepherds It was night, and the merrymakings sociation, was the cause of action,on that first Christmas eve the world at their height.

ever saw. Humanity held its breath A few hours later Temple-Dene was in the face of the "glad tidings of

> All glory be to God on high, And on the earth be peace:

Begin and never cease.

"Amen," murmured Leila's low, sweet voice. And she raised wet eyes to the Christmas stars above.

sore heart the Comforter had come, the Christ-Child, with "healing on His fellow men.

To Gervis Templeton, as he gave her he was not even missed. one glance, it was as though he gazed on the face of an angel.

There was that in its holy, rapt look to help him on the right path. "Gladdy"- he moved to his wife's had tasted the joy of entertaining her side-'I must take you indoors. This neighbors that she threw herself into sort of night air is not good for you." A fragile, almost wasted little figure | uine zest. it was that he led into the house, and

pitying eyes followed it.

eaught it, frowned. "Everybody knows radiantly gay. "You must dance 'Sir that American girls are like thistle- Roger' with Barnes, our good old butnow," said Gervis to himself. "The old down to look at. but they are wiry ler, you know. You must, really!" inchap would stare. He'd have to swal- enough for all that; they make old sisted Lady Jane.

gards Mrs. Templeton, Lady Jane, you the poor lady was shut up dead!" force of 2,500 men was immediately cutlets of the northern delta of the But Ansdell could not see the trans- must face the fact that she is handi- lisped a fair-haired boy in blue velvet sent against him by President Castro. Orinoco river, near the bay of Paria. formation, for he had shut himself up capped by a constitution so frail, and and point lace. immediately on arriving with a tre- a temperament so highly strung, that "Never mind, little man, I'll take you

"Mr. Ansdell! Glad to see you have over." Lady Jane wheeled round, to find the | pointed, rosy mouth. scientist, clad in irreproachable eve- Presently the whole company who from the elders of the party-Lady ning dress, at her elbow. His dark were not dancers crowded close to see Jane and the stately downgers. She eyes were intently following the bride's the popular, old-fashioned dance led

Desmond, to whom the bride had taken lously asked Gervis, when he got her Dene retainers.

interior, conspicuous figures, for both mortal thing for you, Gladdy!" Gervis said, amazed.

"Oh, of course he would! Oh, no, curly hair diamonds sparkled; while no! I didn't mean that. I want"-Lella, in her dead-white erape, simply there was a pause-"I want Leila." A few minutes later Gladdy was in

"You are over-tired, Mrs. Temple-"I love your dear old-fashioned ton," Leila's soft, rich voice was say-Christmas customs," went on Gladdy, ing almost tenderly, for her heart was But this time it was for Leila's ear strangely drawn to this woman-she only she spoke, and she squeezed her who ought to be the richest and hapnew friend's hand under cover of her | piest woman on earth, for had she not satins and laces as the two girls stood | Gervis? Leila already knew instinctively that the bride was miserably un-

"I am not strong," said Gladdy, pres-I know that old legend in verse, 'The ently. "I was always a weak thing, and I'd no mother to see to me, you "Oh, do you?" Leila turned her know. But I never was like this besoft eyes on the bride. "Then, you fore. It is since the night of the fire know, Gervis would tell you that many on the prairie. Perhaps I got a shock. Leila, I hate black eyes, don't you? Black, deep pools, that seem to hold "N-no!" Gladdy gasped. Then she all that is evil and bad in their

"Oh, no!" Leila's own dark-blue Gervis, it seemed, had told his new eyes widened apprehensively. Could wife next to nothing about the old Gladdy be delirious? Was she on the verge of some fever? "I rather admire "Oh, well, we are not exactly sure, dark eyes, they flash and sparkle so

She spoke calmly, as if to reassure

"I don't mean dark eyes. I mean eyes black as pools of ink, cruel eyes. for her train. She pointed to the gallery running that hold your very soul in a grip of iron. Lella, such eyes have a wicked agony of fear at times! Suppose I

Leila drew her brows together in

bewilderment. "Wait, Mrs. Templeton-please wait | "Dear, I can't think where you can ly flows away and thus releases the a few moments!" urged Leila, laying have seen such eyes. But there's one her hand gently on the American girl's thing I know. Supposing the powers round, white arm. "The mummers are of evil are suffered to tempt or force all village folk who have known us us to be their tools, I know and be- distinct impressions are created and and Gervis all their lives. They would lieve that the powers of good-God the there is no interference whatever by Father and God the Son-are far stronger, and that with Their help we It was Leila all over to be ever can safely resist all evil influences."

"You mean to tell me your faith is so real, so intense?" Gladdy bent forward until her thin. sharp little face touched the soft

round of Leila's cheek "Why, yes!" was the astonished answer. To doubt for Leila would be to question whether the sun rose each day to gladden the earth. "And youyou also believe in God's goodness? How can we listen to the story the joy- does Queen Margherita approve of her

"I wish I were real good, like you," sighed Gladdy. "Leila, do you know sometimes, quite lately, a strong feeling has come to me that my life will be a short one? I haven't enough stamina in me to live."

She stretched out her thin little hands to warm them at the blaze of the wood fire. Leila gazed from them to her in profound amazement.

Was this how a happy bride talked, then? And on Christmas eve, too, when the thought of Christmas peace was warming each heart. "Shall I send Gervis to you?" she

said, softly, wondering a little at her own strength. But Gladdy, unheeding, continued to stare wistfully into the leaping blaze.

through the frosty air. CHAPTER IX.

Christmas day, with its happy greetings and its gifts, its peaceful services. A protest from Milwaukee shippers

The old mansion of Temple-Dene. every nook and cranny of it, was filled with guests, who had come from far and near, bidden to the festivities.

Round a monster Christmas tree danced happy children, eager to grasp the gifts dealt out to them by Santa Claus, a stately figure, snow-covered and holly-decked, sham icicles hanging from his hair and beard, nobody guessing that under the disguise was Gervis himself.

He, and Gladdy also, had thrown ablaze with lights that flashed down great joy." And now, as then, the themselves with childish glee into the on a brilliant scene. Dinner was just hush was followed by a burst of joy- evening's amusements; while Leila and little Syb, fairly exhausted by the toll of decorating the hall, the gallery and the numerous rooms, were well content to look on at the revels in which Goodwill henceforth from heaven to the whole establishment, guests and servants alike, were joining. There was one exception, however.

In the quiet, distant library, Fran-"God is good, God is good!" for to her absent from the Christmas rejoicings.

Lady Jane.

the business of the moment with gen-"My dear!" She seized the skirts of Gladdy's silver brocade dress as the

"She's not long for this world; any- girl fled past with a couple of flushed. body can see that," the whisper went eager children, one on each side. The bride had apparently cast off her mel-"Oh, nonsense!" Lady Jane, as she ancholy of the previous night, and was

"In a general way-yes; but as re- to show uth the big black box where

mendous headache; and it seemed as if any sudden shock might kill her!" up to the gallery after the dance is

Gladdy stooped to kiss the disap-

would have none of their wearisome drooping figure; for, oddly enough, off by the dainty, fragile bride, in her congratulatory speeches. There was Gladdy felt one of her miserable fits gleaming jewels and shimmering gown. and the venerable, white-haired "What is it? Are you chilled?" anx- Barnes, the trustiest of the femple-

At the opposite end of the two long by her side but Leila; and Syb watched "I don't know-yes. I wish that man rows of dancers was Leila Desmond, the pair with glowering eyes that had stayed in his room, he frightens trails of scarlet holly berries on her Glimpse of an Asphalt Lake, result they tion and in which the pitch is so soft white gown and in her sunny hair, "What man? You don't mean Ans- her partner being the small boy in ground of the warm, dazzlingly bright dell? The poor old chap would do any blue velvet, Gladdy's lisping admirer. (To be continued.)

THE BASHFUL MAN.

Needlessly Alarmed the Young Lady

Covering His Grip. some time in the terminal station at | this country from being confiscated in | The process of heating drives off the Philadelphia, waiting for his train to this way the United States warship witer and gas with which the raw be announced. His grip he had shoved | Scorpion has been ordered to leave the under his seat. Finally he jumped up | harbor of La Guayra and run up the and sought the train announcer for the | Orinoco river, and it is reported that third time. He was told that his train time had at last arrived. Then the ready to send the north Atlantic young man remembered his grip, which he had left under the seat in the wait- from Pensacola, Fla., to Venezuela if ing room. Hurrying back, he was the situation does not improve. amazed to find a beautiful girl occupying the place he had left a moment before. His grip was hidden by her skirts and the bashful young man saw no way of getting at it. He feared that he would miss his train, so he decided to speak to the young lady. Strutting up to her in a flustered state, his intention to politely ask her to allow him to get his grip was forgotten and he blurted out with: "Pardon me, lady, but you are sitting on a nail and might tear your dress." With a bound the girl was out of the seat, when the young man grabbed his grip and fairly ran through the waiting room and to his train. The girl blushed as others sitting near giggled and she, too, hurried out to the train shed and waited there

Mechanism of Hearing.

F. Larroque has recently made some interesting observations of the mechanism of nearing. He studies the action upon the ear of sounds produced by the bowing of a string stretched by a vessel containing water which slowtension very gradually. He finds that when the sound is conveyed to the two ears through hearing tubes two the phase of the two sound waves. This he concludes shows that the auditory apparatus of any one ear acts independently of the other

Emmanuel and Queen Margherita. It has been stated lately that a coolness has arisen between King Victor Emmanuel and his mother, Queen Margherita, owing to the economy that he has seen fit to exercise since he came to the throne. The rumor is said to be contrary to fact, for not only son's action, but she is glad to see him following the example of his father. whom she greatly aided in effecting many economies at the court at the be-

Robbery on Italian Railways. The Venetian press advocates drastic measures for stamping out the or-

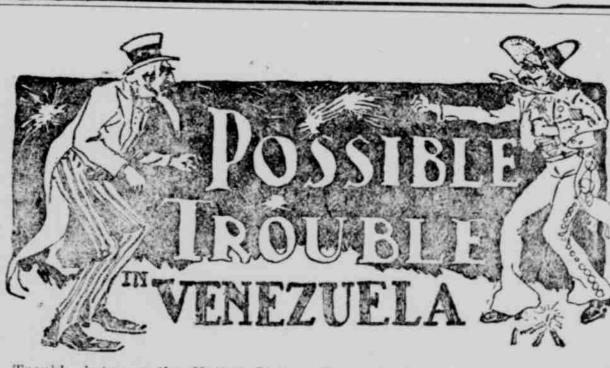
ginning of his reign.

Milwaukee Journal.

ganized robbery which prevails throughout the Italian railway system. Suspecting that the whole body of railway officials is implicated they consider that the only effectual remedy would be the collective dismissal or punishment of every official engaged upon a train in which a robbery takes place.

Need Not Wire Boxes.

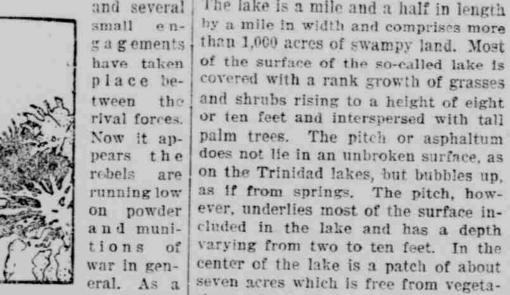
The western classification committee, in session at Hot Springs, Ark., has decided not to require the wiring of boxes containing boots and shoes, millinery goods and other small articles.



Trouble between the United States | Venezuela may be gathered from the and the little Central American state of statement that the Central American Venezuela is possible as the result of country, which has an area five times a quarrel between rival asphalt com- as large as that of the state of Michicis Templeton sat among his dumb panies, who have conflicting claims gan, has a total population of only friends, the long row of books. He to the great Bermudez asphalt lake lo- 2,320,000, somewhat less than that of Tonight she could once again say, alone, the master of the house, was cated on the shores of the Orinoco riv- Michigan, of which number nearly oneer. Eoth of the asphalt concerns are fourth are uncivilized Indians. The Never more would be mingle with his | United States corporations, one of them | regular army of Venezuela consists of being the National Asphalt company, 3,600 men, with a militia which in time But in the revelry now at its height | commonly known as the asphalt trust. | of civil war has put as many as 60,000 It is even charged that the trust has men into the field. So far as a navy is "We must have 'Sir Roger de Cover- had a hand in encouraging the rebel- concerned, Venezuela has only three ley' and then supper!" at last cried lion in Venezuela which is now in small steamers and two sailing vesprogress. The leader of the rebellion | sels, with three or four small river It was so long since the poor lady is Celestino Peraza, who until recently gunboats. Furthermore, it has been was the secretary of the present pres- only four years since the United States ident of the republic, General Castro. intervened on behalf of Venezuela in General Castro himself came into its dispute over the question of bounpower as the result of a successful dary with Great Britain and secured rebellion which resulted in the over- the appointment of an arbitration comthrow of the government headed by mission, by the decision of which sev-President And rade. Since Castro took | era! hundred square miles of valuable control of the government in the latter | territory, including some rich gold part of 1899 he has successfully sup- mines and the country to the south of pressed at least two rebellions, so that | the mouth of the Orinoco river, were he knows what he has to deal with.

Leader of the Grouble.

Colestino Peraze, the leader of the present rebellion, began his outbreak of which the rival American companies "Oh, but Mith Templeton ith going in the country along the Orinoco river are fighting, lies between a range of in the last days of December, 1900. A mountains and the shore of one of the



the government at Washington stands squadron with a force of marines down

Venezuela's Chief Seaport. La Guayra is the chief seaport of Venezaela and the gateway to Caracas, the capital of the republic. At La Guayra the mountains overhang the water, rising to a height of 8,000 feet. They are visible at sea seventy miles away. Caracas is distant only ten miles, but it is reached by one of the most tortuous pieces of railroad build- pitch is filled, while the heavy impuriing in the world. The journey by rail | ties sink to the bottom of the kettle. from the seaport to the capital covers | The pure asphaltum can then be a distance of seventy miles. The climate of Caracas is mild and pleasant, which explains why large cities of tropical America are usually situated some distance from the coast. Caracas is 3,000 feet above the sea level, and the temperature averages 71 degrees above zero all the year round.

Looks Like Absurd Prospect. ous war between the United States and leigh.

and muni- cluded in the lake and has a depth tions of varying from two to ten feet. In the war in gen- center of the lake is a patch of about are said to that it cannot be walked on. The whole be about to seize the arms and other surface of the lake is so low that durproperty belonging to the New York | ing the spring floods it is entirely covand Bermudez Asphalt company at the ered by water. The pitch is dug out Bermudez pitch lake, while the regu- of the lake by native labor and carted lar government, under President to a convenient place near a seaport. Castro, has seized a couple of steamers | where it is refined. The raw asphalt belonging to a steamboat company is put into huge kettles and slowly owned in the United States. In order heated from above until the whole A bashful young man had sat for to protect the property of citizens of mass is brought to a liquid condition.

A VENEZUELAN MAN-OF-WAR.

Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Fitzgerald of Danville, Va., have deeded their place on the north bank of the Dan river, worth \$20,000, to the Danville Orphanage as a permanent home.

The late Chief Justice Faircioth of North Carolina bequeathed \$20,000 to Some idea of the absurdity of a seri- the Baptist Female University of Ra-



THE WHITE SQUADRON IN THE HARBOR OF LA GUAYRA.

## & Asphalt in History. &

Asphalt has been known from pre- while the crude asphalt was being historic times. Some forms of it were hauled from the deposits where it was used as building material in ancient dug. Pieces of the asphalt dropped Babylon, and others were used in the from the carts and were gradually preparation of mummies. During the | ground into the roadbed by the feet of middle ages it dropped almost from the men and horses. It was noticed sight. In 1712 a Swiss physician dis- that such roads soon presented a hard covered large beds of it in the Alps and resisting surface, and the idea of and succeeded in reviving the use of using asphalt on other roads was deit as building material. It is said that veloped. It was not largely used, howthe value of asphalt for paving pur- ever, until 1832, and within the last 25 poses was discovvered by accident years it has made its greatest progress.

Venezuela's Asphalt Lakes.

The chief importance of Venezuela's | financial backing to start one of the asphalt lake is due to the fact that it | periodical outbreaks which have preis one of the few deposits of consider- vailed in Venezuela ever since it cast able size on this continent which are off the yoke of Spain. It is also stated not controlled by the asphalt trust. A | that President Castro and his followers concession covering the lake was were sadly disappointed in their hopes granted to a small rival company, and of finding some method of increasing a few months later trouble began. The | their private fortunes after they took ease with which a rebellion may be charge of the government. started in Venezuela is said to be re-

markable. The country is full of rev-Merchandise was first admitted to olutionary leaders, who only need some | the mails in 1861.

saved to the smaller state. The Bone of Contention. The asphalt lake, for the possession and several The lake is a mile and a half in length en- by a mile in width and comprises more MITS~ gagements, than 1,000 acres of swampy land. Most Frances have taken of the surface of the so-called lake is M.Anderson place be- covered with a rank growth of grasses tween the and shrubs rising to a height of eight

> MISS FRANCES M. ANDERSON, daughter of HON. JUDGE ANDERSON, of Virginia, is at present in Washington, D. C., as Corresponding Secretary of the Higher Educational League, of that city. Cured of la grippe by Peruna.

ISS FRANCES M. ANDERSON, I tinue to suffer on, dropping into the Corresponding Secretary of the Higher Educational League, writes from the"Astoria," Washington, D. C., the following:

"About two months ago I was taken very ill with la grippe and was obliged to go to bed. I took three bottles of Stippe Peruna with very beneficial results. and was able to leave my bed in a Grove, Ala., the following letter: week and regained my usual strength | Dear Sir-"Last week I was taken

very soon. "I have nothing but praise for Peruna, and recommend it to those similarly afflicted whenever I can."-Frances M. Anderson.

of acute catarrh which is so contagious and runs a course more or less | much after taking Peruna."-Samuel definite, the same as scarlet fever, M. York. whooping cough, etc. During the acute stages of la grippe it is not a very fatal disease, but the

condition in which it leaves the sysless number.

disease. The majority of those who have escaped death find life scarcely my neighbors and friends. Peruna is worth living. only know with what certainty and line J. Kahl, promptness Peruna would relieve them of all the bad effects which la grippe

has brought upon them, what an untold | runa, write at once to Dr. Hartman, amount of suffering would be averted! giving a full statement of your case Thousands have already heard how quickly this remedy will cure in these | valuable advice gratis. cases and have been saved; but tens of thousands have not yet heard, and con- | The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, O.

I don't like these cold, precise, perfeet people, who, in order not to speak wrong, never speak at all, and in order not to do wrong, never do anything.-H. W. Beecher.

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your directions. After taking two bottles of Peruna I found myself well of ia grippe, and my hearing was fully re-

La grippe is, strictly speaking, epi- stored. My health is better than it demic catarrh-that is to say, a variety | has been in five years. "My wife improved in health very

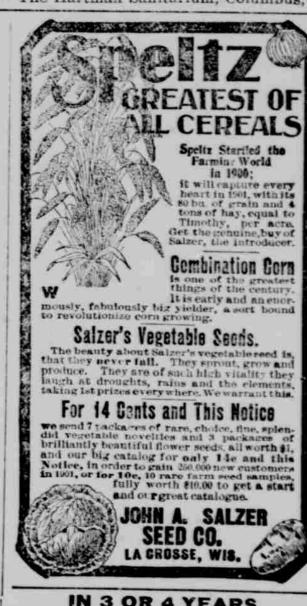
> Miss Caroline J. Kahl, Otisco, Ind., writes as follows:

"Three years I had la grippe and pulmonary trouble. I was very sick. tem has caused the death of a count- I had hemorrhages of the lungs nearly every day for a year and three bottles Indeed nearly every person who has of your Peruna cured me. The coctor had la grippe within the last three | said I had consumption. I am now in years finds himself more or less de- better health than I have been for

ranged by the pernicious effects of this | many years. "I highly recommend Peruna to all my favorite medicine. I shall always If this vast multitude of people could | have Peruna in the house."-Miss Caro-

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